



Kids and Tobacco

- Montana law prohibits youth under 18 from possessing tobacco at any time.
- More than one-third of all kids who try smoking become regular daily smokers before leaving high school. Most will continue to smoke through adulthood.¹
- Almost 90 percent of adult smokers began at or before age 18.²
- The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids estimates that Montana kids buy or smoke 2.3 million packs of cigarettes each year.³
- A recent survey of Montana students in grades 8, 10 and 12 indicates:⁴
 - ✓ 90% tried cigarettes before the age of 16. 45% before the age of 12.
 - ✓ 19% smoke cigarettes - that's about one-in-five students.
 - ✓ 15% of males and 3% of females report current use of spit tobacco.

General Office... **1.866.787.5247**

Web site... **www.tobaccofree.mt.gov**

e-mail... **infotobaccofree@mt.gov**

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Tobacco-Free Schools *in Montana*

Montana's tobacco-free schools prevent addiction and disease.

The Law

- **Montana's statewide tobacco-free schools law prohibits anyone from using tobacco products in a public school building or on any public school property at any time.**
 - Passed by the Montana legislature as part of the 2005 Clean Indoor Air Act.
 - Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, and spit tobacco.
 - Prohibition applies to students, faculty, administrators, as well as janitors, parents, school board members, sports fans, alumni, guests – anyone entering school property at any time.
 - School property includes any public land, fixtures, buildings, or other property maintained at public expense where minor-aged children receive instruction, and includes school playgrounds, school steps, parking lots, administration buildings, athletic facilities, gymnasiums, locker rooms, and school buses.
 - School principals (or their designees) have the authority to enforce this law.
 - Violators who smoke or use other tobacco products on school property can be fined between \$25 and \$100.
- **The law provides two exceptions:**
 - Tobacco products are permitted on school property if they are part of a teacher- or administration-sanctioned educational lesson about the risks of tobacco use.
 - Tobacco products are permitted on school property if they are used as part of a Native American cultural activity in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Sources:

1. Selected Cigarette Smoking Initiation and Quitting Behaviors Among High School Students – United States, 1997, MMWR (5/98).
2. Calculated based on data from National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2003. See also, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General, 1994.
3. DiFranza, J. & J. Librett, "State and Federal Revenues from Tobacco Consumed by Minors," American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) 89(7): 1106-1108, July 1999; Cummings, et al., "The Illegal Sale of Cigarettes to US Minors: Estimates by State," AJPH 84(2): 300-302, February 1994.
4. Youth Tobacco Use and Attitudes, Montana Prevention Needs Assessment: Trends 2000 -2004; Addictive and Mental Health Disorders Division, Chemical Dependency Bureau; MT Dept. of Public Health and Human Services; 2/2006.